

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

We all need affirmation in order to continue to do what we do and this story has Jesus receiving affirmation from God, his Father, close to the end of his ministry in just the same words as were used at the beginning of his ministry; "This is my own dear Son with whom I am pleased."

Jesus was shortly to knowingly endure the cross. In the preceding verses to this passage he tells his disciples: "I must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. I will be put to death, but three days later I will be raised to life." So, we can well imagine that Jesus needed this affirmation from his Father, just as much as his disciples needed to hear it for their future understanding.

Are there people whose work you could affirm this week? Do you know of people facing particularly difficult challenges and circumstances that you could encourage? Perhaps there are some to whom you have given encouragement in the past, maybe even helped into their current direction, who would appreciate a call or a conversation to sustain them this week.

Finally, God also wishes to call you his child and affirm you in your ministry. Are you open to that prospect?

Lord Jesus, scripture speaks of you as the sustainer of all things and yet you, yourself, required affirmation in your ministry. Encourage us this week with your affirmation of our ministry in and through our work and enable us to share your affirmation with others.

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"United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind"
 Philippians 2:2

5th MARCH 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 4th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 5th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 6th March	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 7th March	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 8th March	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 9th March	10:00am	Mass
Friday 10th March		No Mass
Saturday 11th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 12th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

BAPTISM PREPARATION
 If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 10am Mass on Sunday morning.
 Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr Philip Shaw

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal

So far just over £1,000 has been raised. Thank you for your generosity. There's still time if you want to make a donation. Put it in an envelope marked "Earthquake Appeal"

Norah Isherwood: It is with sadness that we have heard that Norah Isherwood has passed away. Her Requiem Mass is on Friday 10th March 1.30 pm at Larmenier Retirement Village Chapel in Blackburn. 3pm at Pleasington Cremington Crematorium. Refreshments at Larmenier afterwards.

Coffee morning: The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 14th March at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....

St Joseph pray for us

Gospel

Matthew 17 1-9



Six days later, three of them saw that glory. Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him.

Peter broke in, "Master, this is a great moment! What would you think if I built three memorials here on the mountain—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?"

While he was going on like this, babbling, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and sounding from deep in the cloud a voice:

"This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. "Don't be afraid." When they opened their eyes and looked around all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus.

Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't breathe a word of what you've seen. After the Son of Man is raised from the dead, you are free to talk."



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023: This years overland pilgrimage will depart on Thursday 27 July returning on Friday 4 August. Those pilgrims wishing to fly will depart from Liverpool airport on Friday 28 July returning on Thursday 3 August. More details are available on the pilgrimage website <http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk>. Young pilgrims (aged 16 - 22) who wish to join us in Lourdes and offer their time and energy to assist and serve the sick and elderly pilgrims are asked to contact Sandy Fairley at the Youth Mission Team (youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) for more details.